(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Coconut Development Board setup by the Government of India in 1981 for the integrated development of coconut cultivation and industry in India is implementing various programmes to improve productivity, including production and distribution of quality planting material and improved cultivars, productivity improvement by management of disease affected palms and by providing financial assistance for setting up of organic manure units and laying out of demonstration plots.

(d) It is estimated that approximately 5 million farm families in the country depend on coconut cultivation.

(e) Yes, Sir. The Government proposes to increase coconut production by focusing on productivity improvement and expansion of area in potential states.

(f) As a part of the programme for expanding coconut to non-traditional areas, the Board had started a State Centre Office at Raipur during the year 1985-86. However, due to the limited scope for implementation of the CDB's schemes in the state of Madhya Pradesh, the office was subsequently merged with the Demonstration cum Seed Production farm Kondagaon, Bastar District, during 1989-90. The farm is being maintained as a Demonstration cum Seed Production Farm to meet the requirement of seedlings of farmers and also for transfer of technologies for scientific coconut cultivation in non-traditional areas.

Financial support for small rural industries

444. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme for the poor villagers for financial support to avoid bank loans at higher rates of interest, to start their own small industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have any plan to launch such scheme for encouraging entrepreneurs to start rural industries from Government funds; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) No, Sir. There is no such scheme of the Government in the Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Setting up of ARIs

445. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Agro and Rural Industries established in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether Government have fixed any target for setting up of these industries in the country particularly in Andhra Pradesh during 2005-06 to 2006-07; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the achievements made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) is a credit linked subsidy programme implemented through Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) under the Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries throughout the country for promoting agro and rural industries. The State-wise details of agro and rural industries established under REGP are placed at Statement-I (*see* below).

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The State-wise details including Andhra Pradesh regarding achievements made against the targets fixed during 2005-06 and 2006-07 are given at statement-II and Statement-III respectively.